

Year 1 Curriculum Letter – Autumn 1 2026

Welcome to the new academic year! We are looking forward to working with you throughout this academic year in order to support your child with their learning. This newsletter will provide you with information on the half term ahead. If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,
Venus Class

Venus Class – Lisa-Marie Burnett and Ellie-Louise Small

Topic

The children will be focusing on the Topic 'Who am I? In Year 1 the children will be learning to identifying parts of the U.K and locating London and Southwark on a map. They will be looking at physical and human features of London alongside looking at the seasons and weather that the U.K experience. They will also be doing a local walk to see some of the famous landmarks close to our school.

English (reading and writing)

In English the children will be focusing on the texts 'The Coloured Monster' by Anna Llenas and 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers; the children will be developing their vocabulary through describing different scenes in the text, asking key questions; drama and retelling the main events in a story. Year 1 will focus on skills such as orally rehearsing sentences; using their phonics to write the sounds they can hear in a word; beginning to use full stops and capital letters correctly within simple sentences.

During reading sessions, the children will read in a small group with an adult three times a week. During these sessions children will discuss new vocabulary and continue to develop their other reading skills of sounding out and blending words back together. It is important that these skills continue to be practised at home for children to build their confidence and comprehension skills. Ensure you sign your child's reading record when they read, so they can join Miss Matheson's tea party when they reach 100 home reads!

Maths

Our first focus of the year will be on number and place value. In Year 1 the children will be focusing on counting and representing numbers within 10; ordering numbers; using < > = symbols to make comparisons and identifying more and less.

Science

In science this half term, we will be looking at seasonal changes and the features within each season. We will discuss how our clothing changes dependent on the season as well as the different activities that might take place and food that is grown. We will explore our surroundings using our senses. We will be making connections with the world around us and using our maths skills during experiments.

Music

The children will have weekly Music lessons with a specialist Music teacher called Rachel from Southwark Music services. Venus class will learn how to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. They will also explore beat and rhythm with different percussion instruments.

Art/DI

This half term in Art, our topic is *Who am I?* It invites children to explore their identity through creativity. They will be using clay to create self-portrait tiles, learning new skills and techniques as they manipulate and sculpt the clay. Alongside this, children will be learning and using rich artistic language and vocabulary to describe their ideas, processes, and final pieces.

P.E.

The children will receive two P.E. sessions a week – once with a specialist P.E. coach from the London P.E. network and once with their class teacher. Please make sure PE kits are worn to school on their P.E days. Our first PE focus this half term will be Net games using hands. P.E. will take place on **Monday and Thursdays**.

R.E.

In R.E this half term, we are exploring the big question: *How did the world begin?* Children will engage with a range of creation stories from different cultures in imaginative and thoughtful ways. They will also be expressing their own ideas through creative arts and rich language, encouraging curiosity and reflection.

Computing

This half term in Computing, we are exploring algorithms through fun, hands-on activities! Children are learning to give and follow directions, take turns, and work patiently as a team. We're also introducing simple map skills to help them understand sequencing and navigation. It's all about thinking logically and problem-solving together!

PSHE

In PSHE, the children will be focusing on the theme 'Being me in my world'. This term they will look at responsibilities, rules and feeling safe.

Key Dates

9:00-9:30	Phonics / Assembly
9:30-10:20	Maths/English
10:20-10:40	Playtime
10:40-12:00	Maths/English and COOL time
12:00-13:00	Lunch time
13:00-13:30	Guided reading
13:30-15:00	Art/Topic/Music/PE/Science/DT/RE/Library PSHE
15:00-15:30	Story time / Getting ready to go home

Assembly takes place on Monday and Friday mornings. Separate assemblies may take place to mark special events or occasions in the school calendar.

02.09.26 – INSET DAY

03.09.26 – Children to return back to school – **8:50am**

25.09.26 – SEND coffee morning with Mr Bucknall – **9:00am**

25.09.26 – Year 1 and 2 Reading together coffee meeting – Mrs Abrahams and Miss Matheson – **2:45pm**

25.09.26 – *National Teaching Assistant Day 2026*

28.09.26 – Year 1 and 2 Reading Together starts – **3:05-3:25pm**

30.09.26 – Individual photos

1.10.26 -31.10.26 – **Black History Month**

1.10.26 – National Poetry Day

5.10.26 – *World Teachers Day*

19.10.26 – 21.10.26 – Parents evening (Please book your slot as soon as the portal opens).

23.10.26 – Big Draw Day – All year 1 parents welcome 😊

HALF TERM 26th October – 30th October 2026

Children return back to school Monday 2nd November 2026; **8:50am.**